Corr/8/1 (C)

To be considered

1/14/5/58

2

17

Declassified.

Chatterjee 6/1/16.

(अरुण कुमार चटर्जी)
(ARUN KUMAR CHATTERJEE)
संयुक्त सचिव (सी.एन.वी.)
Joint Secretary (CNV)
विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली
Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi

Corr: P1 to P22

Total 22

CORR - P. 1-22 Keep

12/01/16



SECRET
Con/8(1)

23rd February, 1954

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

May I refer to your letter dated the 20th February regarding Fr. Schenkl and forward herewith, as instructed, the "secret" file on Frau Schenkl and the subfile containing correspondence with the Bose family?

2. As I mentioned in my note submitted to you in August 1953 in St. Gilgen, two remittances have been received so far from the Prime Minister, as follows:-

'1) A sum of £ 127/19/1 (Sch 9,245.-) received in August and cashed in November, 1950.

& (2) A sum of £ 99/15/10 (Sch 7,236.-) received in October, 1952 and cashed in November, 1952.

An extract of the accounts relating to these remittances is attached herewith. Supporting vouchers, instructions etc relating to the expenditure are with me in the safe.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

(K.V.Ramaswamy)

Y.D. Gundevia, Esq., ICS
Ambassador of India
Embassy of India
Berne.

TOP SECRET

S.9

(2)

NOTE SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTER

Sub: Frau Emilie SCHENKL and her daughter Anita

What I knew before my posting in Vienna

1. I came to know about Frau Schenkl and her daughter in 1948 while I was with the Indian Military Mission in Berlin. Major Warren, who was at that time dealing with the Indian nationals in Germany and Austria ~~and~~ had a file which contained statements by most of the Indians who remained in Germany during the war. In some of the statements I found references about Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose and his activities. There was also a statement by Frau Schenkl about her having worked as a typist for Mr. Bose in Austria and Germany. Some time later I heard about her from Mr. Sultan and Mr. Nayak in Berlin, two Indians who worked for the Indian Legation during the war, that Mr. Bose had a child by Frau Schenkl and that the mother and daughter were living in Vienna. On a later occasion Mr. Sultan said that, if I were going to Vienna, I should meet Mrs. Bose and her daughter. I first came to Vienna in 1948 in connection with trade talks and met an Indian doctor, Dr. Madan, who informed me that Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose had his wife and daughter here. However I did not meet them at that time nor when I visited Vienna again in 1949 before the Legation was established.

2. **First Contacts**

On my way to Vienna from Berlin I reported to the Minister, late Mr. Desai, at Berne and casually mentioned to him about Frau Schenkl. He said he knew about her from Sardar Vallabhai Patel and was anxious that we should look after both ~~after~~ mother and daughter with special care. He directed me to be in close touch with them and help them in every way possible.

P.T.O.

He asked me to give hi my views about her and her suitability to work as a typist at the Legation. He also gave me some presents for the child - chocolates and toys, and asked me to deliver them to the child personally and report on the condition of their living, financial position etc. He also asked me to make enquiries about them discreetly. I reached Vienna on the 23rd November and saw Frau Schenkl and Anita on the 26th. Later I also met Frau Fuglop-Mueller one of her friends - who incidentally, was the person, who introduced her to Mr. Bose. I met also Director Dr. Richter, a friend of Mr. Bose in Vienna, who was staying at Bad Gastein in 1937 and ~~who~~ knew all about Frau Schenkl and Mr. Bose.

3. Question of Marriage

When I had come to know Frau Schenkl well, we used to meet often in her house and the Le ation, and she began to talk about herself. S e said that she met Mr. Bose even in 1934 when he was in Vienna and worked as a typist for him off and on. In the year 1937 when he was at Bad Gastein, she also stayed with him and looked after him. They fell in love with each other and became intimate. Mr. Bose left for India early in 1938 but there was an understanding that he would come again to Europe. ~~In 1941~~, When he escaped from India and came to Berlin via Afganistan and Moscow in April 1941 Mr. Bose wrote to her and asked her to go to Berlin. She went. In September 1941 Mr. Bose and herself went and stayed at Bad Gastein when Mr. Bose first ~~first~~ promised to marry her. After some weeks they returned to Berlin and stayed together in Tiergartenstrasse, Mr. Bose's official residence. In April 1942 she told Mr. Bose that she was expecting a baby. They were by that time "married". As

P.T.O

it was war time, there was no possibility of registering the marriage or holding a celebration. It was a quiet marriage and no one knew they were married, but Mr. Nambiar and close friends had guessed. When she was about 6 months pregnant, sometime in August 1942, she left Berlin and came to Vienna. The baby was born on the 29th November, 1942 in the I. Frauenklinic but the name of the father was not noted in the register. Mr. Bose did not want it to be known, in view of the complications in his political life. However, he wrote a letter in Bengalee to his brother, asking the latter, to look after his child and his wife, in case anything happened to him. Mr. Subhas Bose particularly asked her not to send the letter unless he was dead or lost. In 1945 she heard of the plane accident to Mr. Subhas Bose, but she had no means of sending the letter to Mr. Sarat Bose. In 1947, however, she had photocopies of the letter taken, for fear of losing the original, and gave one copy to Mr. Parekh and another to Mr. Hafiz, both of whom were her friends, with the request that the letter be delivered to Mr. Sarat Bose in person. In 1948, they both reached India; Mr. Parekh handed the letter over to Sardar Patel and Mr. Hafiz to our Prime Minister. The copy was not given to Mr. Sarat Bose. Our Prime Minister then wrote to Mr. Sarat Bose about his brother's wife and daughter, but Mr. Sarat Bose was quite annoyed and denied that his brother was ever married. But when the letter was shown mentioning "I have married her and have a daughter by my wife. Please have some affection for my wife and child when I am no more - as you have had for me throughout my life." Mr. Sarat Bose appears to have been sceptic and undertook to meet Frau Schenkl and daughter in Europe. Mr. Sarat Bose came in 1949 and the original letter was given to him. He then changed his mind and was very friendly. He asked Frau Schenkl to go to

P.T.O

India and live with them, but she did not agree. From that time onwards the Bose family have been good to her and she had visits from Mr. Amiya Bose, Asabinda Bose, Kalyan, Sibu Bose and other members. After Mr. Sarat Bose's death, Roma his daughter and Dr. Sachis Ray, his son-in-law came and stayed in Vienna for about a year and thus the family ties have been strengthened. The family members have thus accepted her as Mr. Subhas Bose's wife and Anita as his child. I have made descreet enquiries about the marriage from Director Richter, Frau Fuelop Mueller, Kommercialrat Faltis and Mrs. Vetter, who were close friends of Mr. Subhas Bose and know Frau Schenkl quite well and all of them have confirmed that, though there was no formal marriage, Mr. Subhas Bose and Frau Schenkl lived together and the child was born of that association. The child bears distinctive Mongolian features of the Bengali type and I feel convinced that, in the circumstances, Anita should be treated as the daughter of Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose.

4. Family of Frau Emilie Schenkl: Frau Emilie Schenkl comes of a middle class family; her father died about twenty years ago, but her mother is still alive. She has no brother, but a younger sister, who is married to a mechanic in Graz. Though she is called Frau Schenkl, she was not married before she met Mr. Bose; it is usual in Austria to call any young lady over twenty five as a Frau (Mrs.) instead of Fraulein (Miss) for the sake of politeness. She has no other close relatives.

5. Her Financial Position: Soon after I had come to Vienna in January, 1950 I heard a lot about her from Director Richter of the Societie Adriatica, an Italian Insurance company, to whom I was introduced by Mr. A.C.N. Nambiar. Dr. Richter said that she had no property

(6)

and had to live on what she earned, and a very small pension which her mother got, - barely sufficient to carry on hand to mouth. He suggested that the Government of India should do something to help her for the maintenance of the child particularly as the Bose family had not done anything in regard to the acknowledgment of Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose as the father of Anita. I gathered that Director Richter was speaking to me on behalf of Frau Schenkl and on her suggestion. Frau Schenkl has been working as telephone operator in the Vienna Telephone Co., and her salary in 1950 was about 700 Schillings net - at that time quite insufficient to maintain herself, her mother and the child. When I met Mr. D.B. Desai, the Minister, subsequently in Berne, I mentioned to him about her financial difficulties. He promised to write to the Prime Minister and Sardar Vallabhai Patel. In the meanwhile, he asked me to help them as far as I can. I was sending her tea, cigarettes and small packets of food-stuff, now and then, and met her several times. She was a frequent visitor to our house. In the middle of August, 1950 I received a sum of £ 127-19-1 (9,245 Schillings) from the Prime Minister. Mr. Desai, who was here some time later, met Frau Schenkl. He wanted to give her the money, but she suggested that the money should be with me and that she would take it from me, as and when she required, to supplement her income. She had arranged to take from me a sum of 600 Sch per month and had, in fact already taken that sum from me even before the money came and requested me to keep the whole thing secret for fear of embarrassing Mr. Sarat Bose. Three monthly instalments were paid to her in August, September and October, 1950 and she also accepted small presents, tea, coffee, cigarettes, chocolates, toys etc. When the November instalment was ready, Mr. Amiya Bose, son of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, cameto Vienna. Frau Schenkl saw me in my house and was agitated over the fact that there was some publicity

in India about the payments to her which had embarrassed the Bose family. She complained about the Prime Minister having announced the money payments to some members of Parliament. Early in December 1950, she came to me again returned the three instalments (total 1,800 Sch) and took back the receipts and confided to me why she had to return the sum. Mr. Amiya Bose had told her plainly that, if she wanted to be considered a member of the Bose family, she should accept no money from the Prime Minister. As Frau Schenkl told me then, Mr. Amiya Bose had informed her that he had information that Mr. Subhas Bose was not dead and was probably hiding and would be very annoyed if she accepted money from his political enemy, the Prime Minister. Frau Schenkl added, however, that she did not believe fully Mr. Amiya Bose, but she could not afford to offend him. She agreed to accept help from the fund, when necessary, and discreetly suggested presents on special occasions such as birthdays of Anita and herself, Christmas, Easter, New Year Day etc. which could not be misunderstood. I reported the matter to Mr. Desai, who instructed that the sum of 1,800 Schillings returned by her should be used to buy a present for Christmas and this was done. Subsequently, I met Mr. Desai, who was then very ill, who asked me to arrange for her to go to Berne. He told me that a sum of one lakh was available from the I.N.A fund and another lakh with Sardar Patel both of which were to be held in trust for Frau Schenkl and her daughter Anita and that Frau Schenkl should be very careful in her dealings with Mr. Amiya Bose and other members of that family. I duly conveyed this information discreetly, as our personal relations were very good and she trusted me. Early in February 1951, our Prime Minister wrote to Frau Schenkl and the letter was delivered by me in person. It contained a request to her to go to India to execute some Trust deeds etc.

As desired by the Prime Minister, she was assured that the matter was entirely private, nothing to do with the Government and that she would have no difficulty in India. All expenses were to be paid by the Prime Minister personally and she could also visit Calcutta to see the Bose family of she so desired. Frau Schenkl took some time to reply. She came and consulted me several times. In the meanwhile, I felt she had wirtten to Mr. Amiya Bose in Calcutta and also consulted Mr. Sarat Bose's son-in-law Mr. Sachis Ray, who was then in Vienna. She told me that she did not show our Prime Minister's letter to any one and the matter was entirely secret. Some days later, she gave me several reasons why she should not go to India. She did not want to give up her job. She could not secure long leave at short notice. She did not want to distrub the child's study. She did not desire to leave her old mother alone. But one of the main reasons, which she did not mention, but which I guessed, was that if she went to India Mr. Subhas Bose's family would be somehow embarrassed - due to the marriage question mark - and that she was also nervous of the publicity. She wrote out a reply which was sealed and asked me to send it. I forwarded this reply to Mr. Desai in February. He telephoned me to send her to Berne as he was ill. I arranged for hervisit and she went. On her return I learnt that she had reiterated herobjections to go to India at that time andMr. Desai appreciated her point. We did not, since then, pay her any money, but continued, now and then, to send presents which she accepted. She complained again, however, in May 1951 that the Prime Minister had announced the substance of his correspondence with her and that she had not accepted his invitation to the parliament though he had assured her that the matter was absolutely private and confidential.

In the meanwhile, Mr. Sisir Bose, brother of Mr. Amiya Bose, was in Vienna and returned to Calcutta. Soon

(9)

correspondence between him and Mrs. Schenkl took place the gist of which was communicated to me by Frau Schenkl. There was a proposal to publish a second Volume of Mr. Subhas Bose's "Indian Struggle" and some unpublished material which was in her possession was to be supplied by her and the full profit should belong to her. In August 1952 a sum of Rs 300/- was remitted by Mr. Amiya Bose to me with the request that this amount should be handed over to Frau Schenkl. The permit for remittance was granted by the Reserve Bank of India on the sponsorship of the Ministry of External Affairs. From that month Rs 200/- per month has been regularly received for her. The Ministry of External Affairs is aware of the remittances.

Mr. N. Raghavan, the Minister, knew of the developments. When Mr. Asaf Ali came in July 1952 I told him the whole story. I asked him as to what to do with the balance of money with us, Sch 3,800 (Rs 52/-) He spoke to Frau SCHenkl and asked me to set this money apart and buy a good Rolleiflex Camera or some gold jewel for Anita and present it to her. Later he said he would buy the camera himself when he visitied Vienna next and present it. Frau Schenkl has agreed to take the camera as she needs it. Mr. Asaf Ali wrote to the Prime Minister on his return to Berne and Mr. Tayabji, wrote to me to buy some tea for Frau Schenkl and promised to send parcels from India, if need be. I replied saying that I had been regularly supplying her tea and suggested that no food parcels etc should be sent from India as Frau Schenkl was very touchy in the matter and her case should be handled carefully. In October 1952, I got a remittance of £ 99-15-10 from the Prime Minister out of which £ 7-7-6 had been spent in tea and cigarettes.

Thus at present Frau Schenkl is getting Rs 200/- from the Bose family in Calcutta, her profit from the

book sales, and enough funds are available to help her if she needs any monetary help. Frau Schenkl is most particular to keep good relations with the Bose family and with us.

When I was at Buergenstock, the Prime Minister asked me whether the money sent for Frau Schenkl had already been spent and whether more money was needed. I said that the last remittance had not been utilised and that Frau Schenkl was not taking money. He said he knew that she was not accepting money, but it should be given to her in presents, as occasions arose, and she must be discreetly informed that the Bose family was not well off and she could not expect much help from that quarter.

---

5. Frau Schenkl's General Attitude:

She is simple but very shrewd. She wants it to be clearly accepted by the Bose family that she is Mr. Subhas Bose's wife and later on to accept the sums earmarked for her and her daughter.* She is sure that Mr. Subhas Bose is dead, but keeps on telling visitors that she has the feeling that he is alive. To those who ask her why she does not go to India, she replies clearly that she would go to India with Mr. Subhas Bose when he comes back. She is willing to accept help but not to acknowledge it for fear of embarrassing the Bose family at present. When I once suggested that I proposed to return the money to India as she was no longer in need, she said that I should not do so as she proposed to take help from us when the remittances from the Bose family stopped, as she believed it would, and when she was in need; if she took the money, she would spend it; it was safer with the Legation. Most of the Indian visitors go to see her, but she is embarrassed at their questions. She was annoyed at the publicity in India but meets Indian journalists friendly

* From the INA Fund and Sardar Patel's will.

to the Bose family. Mr. H.V. Kamath and other leftist leaders had seen her and had been encouraging her to believe that Mr. Subhas Bose is alive and are using her for their own propaganda in India to that effect to confuse the public.

Frau Schenkl has to be handled carefully and discreetly, as she is very touchy; while not very intelligent, she is shrewd and clever and knows where her interests lie. She is devoted to the memory of Mr. Bose and has so far remained true and faithful to him. She is a woman of the world, is 43 years old at present and looks after Anita very well.

CONFIDENTIAL

(12)

D/MIN-II(7)-CON/8(1) 7th December, 1950

Sir,

I attach herewith a letter from Frau E. Schenkl, which is self-explanatory. She has given me AS 1,800 (Schillings one thousand eight hundred), which I am crediting today to the special account which had been opened with the sum received from the P.M. As I should like to have your instructions before issuing a receipt to her, I am writing this letter.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

1 Encl.

H.E. Sri D.B. Desai
Envoy Extraordinary &
Minister Plenipotentiary
c/o Legation of India
BERNE

CONFIDENTIAL

D/MIN-II(5)-CON/8(1) 14th November, 1950

Sub: Frau E. SCHENKL

Sir,

You may recall that on your initiative, a sum of £ 127-19-1 (about Rs. 1,715) was received here from the Honourable Prime Minister. On the request of Frau Schenkl and under your instructions, out of this sum AS 600.- per month was being paid to her. She did not desire to have a lump sum being paid to her as there were rumours of changes in the exchange rates and so forth. There were also other reasons which she explained at that time as to why she would prefer a regular payment to her. During the months of August, September and October this procedure was followed. When the instalment for November was ready for being delivered to her as usual, Mrs. Schenkl telephoned that it need not be brought to her as Sjt. Amyia Bose was here and she would prefer to treat thematter confidential. She promised to call at this Legation sometime, but she did not do so during the past ten days. Consequently, I rang her up on Saturday and enquired whether I could see her and bring over the packet. She mentioned that she would like to talk to me over the matter and also to you when you arrived here.

I gathered from the trend of her talks that there was some publicity in India about certain payments to her which embarrassed the Bose family. I guess that Sjt. Amyia Bose has probably spoken to her in the matter.

I am just bringing this to your notice for your information and such directions as you would like to give me as to what I should do further in this case. The sum received from the Prime Minister has been kept in a separate

P.T.O.

account, out of which the sum of AS 1,800 has so far been paid to her as indicated above.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

H.E. Sri D.B. Desai
Envoy Extraordinary &
Minister Plenipotentiary
c/o Legation of India
BERNE

(15)

Telegram

From FOREIGN NEWDELHI
To INDLEGATION VIENNA
No 93/6 dated 14th August, 1950

S E C R E T

No 26421. Secret. Equivalent of Rupees 1715 remitted for payment to one Frauline Schenkl on behalf of H-P-M- Please arrange payment on receiving instructions from the Minister in Berne.

S.S (16)

Receipt

7th December, 1950

Received from Mrs. Schenkl sum of Austrian schillings One thousand and eight hundred (As. 1800.-) which was advanced to her during the months of August, September and October, 1950.

K.V.

(K.V.Ramaswamy)
7.12.50

(17)

Legation of India,

Vienna

Receipt No 2

Received from the Legation of India, Vienna,
sum of Austrian schillings six hundred only (As.600.-)

.....

Date . 1. IX . 50.

(18)

S.7 Receipt No. 1

Received from the Legation of India, Viemma,
sum of Schillings six hundred only. (As.600.-)

Emilie Schenker

1/8/50

(19)

Legation of India,
Vienna

Received from the Legation of India sum of schillings six hundred only (As.600.-)

1. 10. 50.

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Tage	Zins-Zahlen	Alter Saldo (— Soll)	Konto Nr.	Datum 1951	Text	Beleg Nr.
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		9,245.83	1,278	JAN16	Abschlußpostensaldo	
		9,245.00	1,278,000	MRZ12		21,027,
		8,245.00	1,278	MRZ14	SW	21,028,
		7,756.00	1,278	JUL 9	BA	728,
					3/4 %o Zinsen aus Nr. 15638	
					.....%o Manipulations Geb. v.	
					Porti u. Spesen	
					Saldo	
		Abschlußpostensaldo ~~Soll~~ Haben 25				
					Übertrag Seite.....	

Im Kontokorrent
mit der CREDITANSTALT-BANKVEREIN

ABSCHRIFT

TEXTSIGEL:

BA	= Bar Ein- und Auszahlungen	KW	= Kupons
BA1	= Akkr. u. Kreditbriefzahlungen	KW1	= Verl. Effekten, eingel. Werte
DV	= Devisen u. Valuten	KW2	= Wertpapiere, Kauf-Verkauf
ES	= Disconten	RI	= Schecks u. Wechsel
GZ	= Zinsen	RI1	= Dokumenten-Inkassi
GZ1	= Gebühren u. Provisionen aller Art	SW	= Eingel. Schecks, Wechsel, Rembourstratten
GZ2	= Porti, Spesen, Stempel	SW1	= Domizile
		UE	= Überträge-Überweisungen
		ST	= Stornobuchung

Bei eingelösten Schecks, welche einzeln im Tagesauszug aufscheinen, sind neben dem Sigel SW statt der Belegnummern die Schecknummern eingesetzt.

Wert	Umsätze Soll S	Umsätze Haben	Neuer Saldo Soll S	Neuer Saldo Haben	Kontrolle
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31.12	.83 –			9,245.00 CR	
12 3	1,000.00 –			8,245.00 CR	
13 3	489.00 –			7,756.00 CR	
9 7	7,781.00 –			25.00 DT	
31. Dec. 1951		32.50			
– " –	7.50				
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	9.278.33	9,278.33			

– 18 = Sch

DIRECTORS:
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